

REMARKS

Claims 13-18, 24-28, 32-34, and 37-49 are all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants amend claims 18, 24, 25, 28, 32, 33, 37 and 38. Moreover, Applicants cancel claims 19-23, 29-31 and 35-36 without prejudice or disclaimer and add new claims 50-55. Moreover, Applicants amend the specification to replace “revolving affecting section” with “revolving affecting section”. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added.

Objection to the specification

The Examiner has objected to the title of the specification.

In view of the amendment to the title, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the Title.

Claim objections

Applicants respectfully submit that the claim objection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 22.

Claim rejections

Claims 18, 32, 35-40, 44 - 46 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Nomura et al. (US 2003/0156832; hereinafter “Nomura”). Claims 13-17, 33, 41, 43, 47 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura. Applicant traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 18

Claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, “the lens barrel has a cylinder that rotatably moves in accordance with the extension and the collapse, and the cylinder has a revolving affecting section being in contact with the second lens group holding frame by a rotatable movement of the

cylinder at the time of the collapse to affect revolving of the second lens group holding frame.”

The Examiner asserts that FIGS. 4-10 and paragraphs [0066]-[0068] of Nomura disclose the unique feature recited above. Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons.

Nomura is directed to a retractable lens system which includes a plurality of optical elements that are positioned on a common optical axis when the retractable lens is in use. Nomura discloses that at least one removable element among the plurality of optical elements is moved to a removed position outside of the common optical axis and the removable element is moved rearward (page 1, paragraph 6). However, Nomura does not disclose a cylinder has a revolving affecting section being in contact with the second lens group holding frame by a rotatable movement of the cylinder at the time of the collapse to affect revolving of the second lens group holding frame.

In particular, Nomura discloses a rotatable lens frame 21 which includes a lens holder portion 21a, a swing arm 21b and a cylindrical swing portion 21c. The cylindrical swing portion 21c extends rearward from a free end of the swing arm 21b and is provided along an axis thereof with a through hole to be fitted on an eccentric pivot 20c of the second lens group support frame (page 4, paragraph [0065]). Moreover, Nomura discloses that the rotatable lens from 21 rotates about the eccentric pivot 20c by the spring force of the torsion spring 23 which is defined by the engagements of the stop protrusion 20d with the engaging protrusion 21d (page 5, paragraph [0066]).

However, Nomura does not disclose a cylinder that has a revolving affecting section being in contact with the second lens group holding frame by a rotatable movement of the cylinder at the time of the collapse to affect revolving of the second lens group holding frame. That is, Nomura discloses that the cylindrical swing portion 21c is part of the rotatable lens

frame 21 and does not disclose providing a rotatory cylinder (i.e., an intermediate cylinder 160 in FIG. 6, according to an exemplary embodiment in the present application) in the revolving affecting section.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that even if, *assuming arguendo*, Nomura discloses that the cylindrical swing portion 21c is fitted on an eccentric pivot 20c (the alleged revolving affecting section) of the second lens group support frame, there is no disclosure in Nomura of an affecting section being in contact with the second lens group holding frame by a rotatable movement of the cylinder at the time of the collapse to affect revolving of the second lens group holding frame. That is, Nomura does not disclose the eccentric pivot 20c (the alleged revolving affecting section) being in contact with rotatable lens frame 21 (the alleged a second lens group holding frame) by a rotatable movement of the cylindrical swing portion 21c (the alleged cylinder).

Furthermore, Nomura does not disclose that “the second lens group holding frame has an affect receiving section that is pushed by the revolving affecting section at the time of the collapse so that the second lens group revolves into the saving position.” That is, Nomura does not disclose that that the revolving affecting section of the cylinder pushing an affect receiving section of the second lens group holding frame.

Claims 28, 34 and 38

Claims 28, 34 and 38 recite subject matter analogous to claim 18, and therefore are allowable at least for at least the analogous reasons claim 18 is allowable.

Claim 32

Claim 32 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein the digital camera further comprises a driving source that rotatably moves the rear elements holding frame so that the rear elements lens revolves.” The Examiner asserts Figs. 1-10 and paragraph [0057] and [0065-0068] discloses the unique features recited above. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that Nomura discloses a rotating ring 14 which is in mesh with a pinion 15. The pinion 15 is driven by the motor M which causes the rotating ring 14 to rotate forward and reverse about the rotation axis Z2 (paragraph [0057]). However, Nomura does not disclose a driving source that rotatably moves the rear elements holding frame so that the rear elements lens revolves.

In particular, Nomura discloses that the second lens group L2 is moved onto optical axis Z1 by the spring force of the torsion spring 23 which is defined by the engagements of the stop protrusion 20d with the engaging protrusion 21d and does not disclose a driving source that rotatably moves the rear elements holding frame so that the rear elements lens revolves. That is, Nomura does not disclose a driving source that rotatably moves a lens.

Furthermore, Nomura discloses that the rearward movement of the second lens group support frame 20 causes the position control projection 21f of the rotatable lens frame 21 to come into contact with the cam surface 11a2 of the position control cam bar 11, which causes the rotatable lens frame 21 to rotate about the eccentric pivot 20c by engagement of the position-control projection 21f with the cam surface 11a2 so that the second lens group L2 withdraws from the optical axis Z1 (page 6, paragraph [0070]).

It is clear from the above, that a second lens group is withdrawn from the optical axis Z1 by a projection 21f of the rotatable lens frame 21 coming into contact with the cam surface 11a2; it does not disclose that a driving source that rotatably moves the rear elements holding frame so that the rear elements lens revolves.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 32 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claims 37, 42 and 48

Claims 37, 42 and 48 recite subject matter analogous to claim 32, for example, a driving source that rotatably moves a lens, and therefore are allowable at least for at least the similar reasons claim 32 is allowable.

Furthermore, with regard to claims 42 and 48, Applicants respectfully submit that Nomura does not disclose a driving source that produces a rotary driving force.

Claims 13-17, 24-27, 33, 39-41, 43-47 and 49

Claims 13 - 17, 24 - 27, 33, 39 - 41, 43 - 47 and 49 depend from one of the independent claims that have been shown to be allowable, and therefore are also allowable at least by virtue of their dependency and additional limitations thereof.

New claims

Applicant submits that new claims 50-55¹ depend from claim 18, and therefore are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

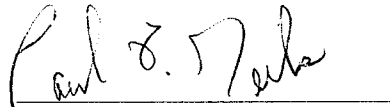
¹ Claims 50-52 are at least supported by FIGS. 6-8 and their corresponding description in the specification. Claims 53-55 are at least supported by FIGS. 16-21 and their corresponding description in the specification.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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